

Three suspected bandits, policeman killed in Asaba

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THREE bandits and a policeman were on Tuesday night killed in Asaba, Delta State.

Our correspondent learnt that the dead policeman lost his service rifle, an AK 47, to the bandits who accosted him on Ossissa/Ogwashi-Uku Road.

Findings by our correspondent showed that while the policeman, an orderly to the Divisional Police Officer in charge of Agbarho Police Station, was shot dead by the bandits when he was fixing a broken down vehicle of his boss, the three bandits lost their lives during a gun battle with policemen in Asaba metropolis.

The deceased policeman was accompanying his boss to Asaba before the tragic en-

counter, during which the bandits shot him at close range. He died on the spot while the bandits fled.

Meanwhile, the hoodlums were killed in a gun battle with the anti-robbery squad of the Delta State Police Command, near Government House, Asaba.

It was learnt that the police chased the bandits, who had been terrorising Asaba and neighbouring towns in the state in the past two weeks, following distress calls by some victims.

A member of the gang reportedly escaped into the bush with bullet wounds.

The Commissioner of Police, State Command, Mr. Udom Ekpoudom, who confirmed the report, said two AK-47 rifles, 220 rounds of ammunition, four magazines, expended

cartridges, money, charms and police uniforms, were recovered from the bandits.

The effort of the police earned the commendation of members of the public.

Over 2,000 residents of Asaba trooped to the streets on Tuesday night to celebrate the feat achieved by the police.

Meanwhile, the police at "B" Division, Warri, on Wednesday invited two factions involved in Tuesday's crisis in Warri metropolis.

The Divisional Police Officer in charge of the station, Mr. Segun Fabunmi, said the factional leaders were warned to prevail on their loyalists to be of good behaviour. He added that the men were released following the intervention of an Urhobo leader.